



## HPAI-EGYPT

# Monthly News Review

**No. 1**

**January, 2009**

*This publication is jointly produced by the:*

- *General Organization for veterinary Services (GOVS),*
- *National Laboratory for Quality Control and Poultry Production (NLQP), and*
- *Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), FAO-Egypt*



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# HPAI Situation Update

## Two Egyptian Baby-Girls Infected with HPAI H5N1 Virus

On January 26, a new human case of HPAI was confirmed in Egypt. The 2-year old baby girl from Shebein El Kom District, Minoufia Governorate, has contracted HPAI H5N1 virus apparently due to contact with sick and dead domestic poultry. The clinical symptoms manifested on Jan. 23, 2009, and include fever and sore throat. She is reportedly in stable condition after being hospitalized and treated with Tamiflu.

On January 12, another old baby girl aged 21-months from Kerdasa District, 6 October Governorate, has contracted HPAI infection apparently as a result of contact with infected poultry (ducks, geese and chicken). On Jan. 10, 2009, she was transferred to Manshiet Al Bakry Hospital 40 hours since the onset of symptoms including fever, cough, vomition, diarrhea, and increased respiration, where she was put on Tamiflu. She is apparently in good health status and back home. This HPAI H5N1 case was diagnosed at the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory and subsequently confirmed by the US Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3) laboratories.

In summary, the total number of HPAI infected people in Egypt reached 53 (23 died), of which 3 (1 died) occurred during this winter.

## 71 Poultry Farms Closed in Kalyubiyah Governorate

In an effort to control the spread of HPAI infection, the Governor of Al Kalyubiyah, has decided to shut down the operation of 71 poultry farms for a period of 6 months. In addition, the Governor has imposed a fine of up to 10,000 L.E. for transporting poultry without the permission of the local Veterinary Authorities as well as for those preventing the inspection animal health teams access to their farms.

## New HPAI H5N1 Outbreaks in Poultry

During the month of January 2009, the Egyptian Veterinary Authorities reported 7 different HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in backyard poultry in five Governorates, namely: Alexandria, Asyut, Fayoum, 6 October, and Minoufia.

Table No. 1 below summarizes information on these outbreaks

**Table No. 1 Summary on HPAI Outbreaks in Poultry During January, 2009, Egypt**

Date of Report	Governorate	District	Village	Type of Rearing	Poultry Species & No.	Vaccination Status & Dates	Purpose of Sampling
Jan., 27	Minoufia	Shebein Elkom		Backyard	6 ducks	Unvaccinated	Passive surveillance
Jan., 26	Alexandria	Khorshid		Backyard	100 chicken & 10 ducks	Unknown	Passive surveillance
Jan., 26	Alexandria	El Ma-moura	Ezbet Hod 10	Backyard	10 chicken & 5 ducks	Unknown	Passive surveillance
Jan., 22	Asyut	Asyut	Reva	Backyard	53 chicken, ducks & Geese	Unknown	Passive surveillance
Jan., 22	Fayoum	Fayoum	Seila Ezbet Edris	Backyard	15 chicken, ducks & Geese	Vaccinated in 2008	Passive surveillance
Jan., 13	6 October	Kerdasa	Kafr Abu Hegazi	Backyard	frozen duck meat , 10 dead & live ducks & chicken	Unvaccinated	Passive surveillance
Jan., 9	Minoufia	Ashmoun	Lengb	Backyard	34 chicken & ducks	Vaccinated in July, 2008	Passive surveillance

# NLQP Laboratory Data (January 2009)

Table No. 2 Results of samples tested from suspected HPAI outbreaks in poultry (January 2009)

Governorate	Farms	Backyard	HPAI test results	
			Positive	Negative
6th October	2	4	2	4
Asyut	0	3	1	2
Sharkia	3	0	0	3
Gharbia	0	2	0	2
Qaliubia	0	1	0	1
Minofia	0	5	2	3
Minya	0	2	0	2
Helwan	0	2	1	1
Alexandria	0	2	2	0
Fayoum	0	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>

Table No. 3 Results of samples tested for HPAI from poultry farms prior to planned slaughter or transport

No	Governorate	No. of Farms Tested	HPAI Test result	
			(+)	(-)
1	6th October	44	0	44
2	Asyut	45	0	45
3	Alexandria	4	0	4
4	Ismailia	18	0	18
5	Luxor	0	0	0
6	Behaira	65	0	65
7	Dakahlia	91	0	91
8	Seuz	6	0	6
9	Sharkia	96	0	96
10	Gharbia	30	0	30
11	Fayoum	0	0	0
12	Cairo	9	0	9
13	Qalubia	397	0	397
14	Mnofia	198	0	198
15	Minyia	2	0	2
16	Al Wadi Al Gadid	6	0	6
17	Beni Swaif	0	0	0
18	Port Said	4	0	4
19	Damaita	42	0	42
20	Sohag	0	0	0
21	North Sinai	6	0	6
22	South Sinai	0	0	0
23	Qena	0	0	0
24	Kafr El Sheikh	13	0	13
25	Matrouh	3	0	3
26	Helwan	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1 081</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 081</b>

## A Recent Study on Migratory Waterfowls in Egypt



From January 10-25, 2009, the Western Ecological Research Center (WERC) in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3), the United Arab Emirates University, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) carried out a study in Egypt to examine the possible role of migratory waterfowl in the spread of HPAI H5N1.

The main objectives of the study include marking waterfowl with satellite transmitters to track and map their movement patterns, as well as, assessing the prevalence of HPAI amongst migratory waterfowl by collecting swab samples for HPAI H5N1 testing. This study employs satellite telemetry in tracking the movement of migratory waterfowl and is anticipated to support the HPAI surveillance program in the country. The above indicated map illustrates the most recent locations of migratory birds in Egypt.

For further information refer to the following website:  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sattrack/egypt/maps.html>

## Coordination to Combat HPAI in Egypt

### ECTAD (FAO) Country Team Organizes Series of Successful Coordination Meetings with the GOVS (MALR)

#### I. Partners Meeting in Cairo

A meeting was held on Jan. 5, 2009 at GOVS premises with the aim of strengthening coordination among partners working on HPAI in Egypt to create more harmonized and effective response against HPAI outbreaks. The meeting was attended by 26 participants representing nine Governmental and International organizations.



The participants were briefed on the current animal health situation by GOVS staff members. In addition, two FAO team members gave presentations tackling the importance of coordination among various partners for effective HPAI response.

Following the presentations, vibrant discussions were held covering these topics:

- Improving awareness on HPAI at both central and local governmental levels.
- Avoiding political underreporting by urging Governors to support the Veterinary Directorates in their Governorates and clarifying that an increase in number of HPAI outbreaks proves the efficiency of surveillance in the Governorate.

## Coordination (Cont.)

- Reconsidering the compensation strategy in collaboration with the private sector to improve notification and reporting.
- Need for holding monthly partners coordination meetings centrally and regular meeting at directorate levels.

The meeting ended with consensus that regular meetings between all key persons representing different partners working on HPAI control is crucial for following-up prevailing challenges and finding ways for improving HPAI response.

### 2. Meeting involving 15 Northern Governorates

On Jan. 17 2009 GOVS and FAO-ECTAD organized the first coordination meeting involving Directors of Veterinary Services from 15 Northern Governorates. The main



objective was to enhance coordination on HPAI response between GOVS and Local Veterinary Directorates. During this meeting the participants expressed the challenges they face in view of HPAI detection and discussion focused on measures to overcome these challenges. The following are some of the identified problems and proposed ways of overcoming them:

- The mass vaccination campaign is implemented only in rural areas, but not in urban and peri-urban centers. On the other hand, household poultry production continues to exist without any support from public services. This is due to the existence of a ministerial decree prohibiting the poultry raising in urban areas. Two of the HPAI infected human

cases this winter were from households in urban areas.

After extensive discussion on the matter, the meeting agreed to extend the HPAI vaccination campaign to urban areas wherever poultry are raised.

- Culling and decontamination practices differ from one Governorate to another. It was emphasized that developing and adoption of an elaborated standard operational procedures (SOPs) governing disease management practices will help its proper and harmonized application across governorates.
- Transportation of poultry across Governorate without any veterinary authorization (certification) is becoming a recognized challenge. After thorough examination of the current practices, it is decided that it is necessary to provide more power to Veterinarian handling routine inspection at police-road –checkpoints and harmonization with police activities.
- The delay /absence of HPAI outbreak reporting was raised as a major concern. The need for local and central veterinary authorities to be on the forefront is underscored. The flow of information between the governorate veterinary services and GOVS need to be further strengthened and nurtured. Participants in the meeting unanimously expressed their commitment and responsibilities in this regard.
- The Veterinary Directorates that were present in the meeting have all agreed to deliver weekly reports to GOVS on all HPAI control and response activities undertaken, and guaranteed on the spot notification of any suspected or confirmed HPAI outbreaks in poultry or human cases.

## Coordination (Cont.)

### 3. Coordination meeting for Alexandria Governorate

On Jan. 18, 2009 the meeting specifically focused on coordination of HPAI detection, reporting and control activities in Alexandria Governorate. The meeting was opened by the Deputy Governor, and attended by high ranking Police Officers, and representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and Environment in Alexandria. The discussion was vibrant, critics were open and mechanisms of cooperation between various agencies were discussed.



A particular issue that received considerable attention was the harmonization of activities between the veterinary services and governorate police commission in certification, movement/transportation of poultry and checkpoint controls. Also, emphasis was stressed on the essentiality of equipping the regional laboratory in Alexandria with HPAI testing equipment which will facilitate the implementation of HPAI rapid response measure.

## Projects Activities

### FAO/TCP/EGY/3105 (E)



As part of the activities of the TCP project, 10 Field Veterinary Officers drawn from 5 Governorates, two from each received a 5-day training on sample collection and surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The training was conducted from January 4-8, 2009 at Embaba Training Center (GOVS). The objective of the training was to create a field level capacity for:

- Outbreak investigation of vesicular diseases with particular emphasis on FMD, and effectively conducting sero-surveillance campaigns per the standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Rapid response against any suspected outbreaks of vesicular diseases especially FMD.
- Designing of a bottom-up data flow and disease reporting system.
- Sustaining stakeholders understanding of the case definition for endemic vesicular diseases such as FMD.

### OSRO/EGY/701/USA

#### Assessing and Mentoring of Participatory Disease Surveillance (PDS) Teams

From January 11-21, 2009, a Veterinary Epidemiologist from the International Livestock Research Institute, Mr Bernard Bett, assessed the performance of PDS teams that received training in November 2008. These activities aimed at strengthening animal disease surveillance and control in Egypt in the context of the "Strengthening Avian Influenza Detection and Response (SAIDR) - (OSRO/EGY/701/USA)

## Projects (Cont...)

Project. The pilot phase is being implemented in Sharkia, Behera and Gharbeia Governorates, where the former two governorate had two teams of 2 staff each, while the later has only a team of three staff.

During his recent visit to Egypt, Mr. Bett evaluated five PDS teams in pre-identified villages. The process involved going out to the field with the PDS teams, assess the methods used to conduct interviews, screen for HPAI (clinical case definition and field application of rapid test kits) and record and analyse data. The trainees conducted a number of group and individual interviews and at the end of each visit, discussions were held with each team to reflect on their performance highlighting their strengths and weaknesses based on observations made in the course of the survey. Observations made in this visit would be incorporated into upcoming refresher training courses.

In addition, Mr. Bett, has developed an Access-based relational database that would be used to manage PDS data collected by the field teams. He has explained the use of the database to GOVS staff with particular emphasis on data entry, building queries and formatting data fields.

### Participatory Disease Surveillance (PDS) Refresher Training Course

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in collaboration with FAO has organized a PDS refresher training course for 17 veterinarians from 3 Governorates (**Behaira, Sharkia and Gharbia**) and staff from GVOS. The training took place in Cairo between January 25 and 29, 2009.



The main objectives of the training were to evaluate the first phase of the PDS activities, and improving PDS methodologies based on knowledge of challenges faced and changes required. The outputs from the training course includes modification of the PDS and data analysis methods; updating HPAI case definition in poultry to increase the sensitivity of the PDS system; improvement of operational procedures to deal with suspected outbreaks; and planning for the upcoming field activities of PDS teams.

### OSRO/EGY/801/USA

In the framework of the USAID- funded FAO-NLQP project (OSRO/EGY/801/USA) also referred to as "Avian Influenza Vaccine Efficacy Project," (AIVEP), FAO has signed a letter of agreement (LoA) with South East Poultry Research Laboratory (SEPRL), which is the OIE reference laboratory for AI and New Castle diseases in USA. This agreement enables NLQP to start a range of activities including: training of Egyptian scientists on sequencing; preparation of standard antisera and antigens for AI; and challenge testing for Egyptian isolates.

Another LOA was also signed between FAO and Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on the basis of which later will analyze Egyptian hemagglutination inhibition datasets generated by NLQP and Partners. The analysis will be performed using the antigenic cartography software system created by Erasmus University which analyzes the antigenic relatedness of the Egyptian HPAI isolates.

In addition, both Egyptian Laboratory Partners, National Laboratory for Veterinary Quality Control on Poultry Production (NLQP) and Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologicals (CLEVB) have itemized, specified and reviewed their procurement lists, which, in turn, were cleared by FAO.

Also, two back stopping officers, Mia Kim and Gwennelle Dauphin, from AGAH-AO visited ECTAD-EGY and reviewed the detailed implementation plan (DIP) of the AIVEP Project; as well as provided technical support in finalizing the LoA with Erasmus University mentioned hereinabove. The experts have also visited the laboratory facilities at NLQP and discussed the upcoming project-related activities with staff.

# FAO ECTAD EGYPT Operations

FAO ECTAD-EGY Operationally Active and New Projects with Governmental Counterparts (MoALR- GOVS/NLQP)

Code	Title	Duration	Government Counterpart	Donor	Status
OSRO/EGY/701/USA	Strengthening Avian Influenza Detection and Response (SAIDR) Project	1 year (Oct 2007 – Sep 2008)	MoALR (GOVS)	USAID	On-going
OSRO/EGY/801/USA	Avian Influenza Vaccine Efficacy Project,” (AIVEP)	24 months (2008 – 2010)	MoALR (NLQP)	USAID	On-going
OSRO/INT/010/GER	Animal Health, Breeds and Livelihoods (AHBL) Project	3 year July 2006- June 2009	MoALR (GOVS/ NLQP)	Germany	On-going
TCP/EGY/3105	Foot-and-mouth (FMD)	1 year 2008-2009	MoALR (GOVS/ AHRI)	FAO	On-going
OSRO/EGY/805/USA	Developing and Maintaining Public-Private Partnerships for the Prevention and Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 and other Emerging Infectious Animal Diseases	12 Months Feb. 2009 – Jan. 2010	MoALR and Private Sector (Poultry Association)	USAID	On-going
OSRO/GLO/802/ USA	Improved biosecurity and hygiene at production, collection points and live bird markets (LBM), including decontamination	8 months Feb. 2009- Sept. 2009	MoALR	USAID	On-going
OSRO/RAB/701/ SWE	Strengthen FAO’s capacity to respond to the Avian Influenza crisis, in more efficient and structured manner (SFERA)	2 years Jan. 2008- Dec. 2009		Swedish Government	On-going
	Development and testing of cost-effective and feasible biosecurity measures for resource limited circumstances	12 Months (To be determined)		Swedish Government	New

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